



ENHANCED SECURITY MEASURES

Security in connection with the manufacture, transport, storage, handling and use of commercial explosives has always been a significant priority of IME and its member companies. Recent events, however, have required all Americans to review security procedures. In this respect, IME applauds the emergency security precautions issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Transportation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, many of which already are reflected in longstanding industry best practices incorporated in IME's Safety Library Publications and various federal regulations.

IME continues to believe and recommend to policymakers that legislation should be passed to require a permit for all explosives purchases. The enactment of this requirement would close a loophole that allows intrastate purchasers to obtain commercial explosives without federal control.

IME members have taken and are taking the following voluntary steps to further enhance security, and IME is recommending others in the commercial explosives industry do the same:

- Designate a person or persons to coordinate reporting of suspicious or unusual activities in their operations to appropriate law enforcement personnel.
- Increase vigilance of facility property on which explosives or explosives related materials are located.
- Require all employees who come in contact with explosives to have a background check. Federal authority and support for such clearance has been sought.
- Review human resource records and report security concerns to appropriate law enforcement officials.
- Restrict the availability of information related to the location of facilities.
- Encourage authorities in possession of information regarding explosives facilities to restrict disclosure of that information to a need-to-know basis.
- Increase transport route and schedule security to facilitate monitoring of shipments and communication with transporters.
- Disseminate security alerts and recommendations to explosives distributors and customers throughout the industry.

The IME is considering the feasibility, cost effectiveness, practicality of and the availability of federal funding for a number of technologies to support the implementation of these recommendations. The IME also is coordinating with other industry associations in order to develop a consistent position and approach to security issues in the following areas:

Human Resources Security
Transportation Security
Physical Security

Operational Security
Information and Training
Law Enforcement Liaison